

storing information in a biological fluid collection and/or processing facility ("facility"). The present invention can be incorporated into an existing facility's system via an upgrade to existing hardware and software. The present apparatus provides a data connection between laboratory instruments, including, but not limited to, existing blood and blood component collection instruments, such as the Autopheresis-C instrument which is supplied by the Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation located in Deerfield, Illinois, those described in PCT Publication No. WO 01/17584, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,581,687 and 5,956,023, and U.S. Serial No. 09/037,356, and biological treatment instruments, such as the pathogen inactivation instruments described in U.S. Serial No. 09/325,599, which are all assigned to Baxter and are incorporated by reference herein, and the collection facility's management information system which lends itself to automated tracing and/or tracking of donors and biological fluids data logging. Traceability is provided via integration of donor, operator, soft goods, and instrument data. The present invention further automates event reporting which is required for regulatory compliance.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 8 at line 9 and ending on page 8 at line 17 with the following paragraph:

In a second embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, the apparatus 10 comprises hardware and software component parts and provides for inter-process communication. Figure 2 shows a first network 12. The first network 12 includes laboratory instruments 20a, 20b, 20c, serial/parallel to Ethernet converters 24a, 24b, 24c, such as a PicoWeb™ device by Lightner Engineering located in San Diego, California or a NetDev™ device by Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation,